

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1897,

BY

R. T. TURNER, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

J. A. DAVENPORT, SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR.



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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.



Medical Officer of Health—R. T. TURNER.
 Population at Census 1891—22,903.
 Estimated Population in middle of 1897—23,483.
 Area in Acres—98,458.
 Birth-rate per 1,000 living—27·8.
 Death-rate per 1,000 living—15·9.
 Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases—1·3.
 Deaths under one year per 1,000 births—137.

AREA AND POPULATION—

Four Townships (Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall, Beeston, and Burwardsley) were taken from the Nantwich Rural Sanitary District and added to the Tarvin Rural Sanitary District on July 1st, 1892. Parts of three Townships (Church Coppenhall, Shavington-cum-Gresty, and Wistaston) were taken from the Nantwich Rural Sanitary District and added to the Borough of Crewe on November 9th, 1892. The area and population of the Nantwich Rural District have therefore, since the Census, been reduced as follows:—

	Area in Acres.	Population at Census.
Nantwich R. S. D. in 1891	104,932	28,326
Less portion added to Tarvin R. S. D.	5,617	1,401
Less portion added to Crewe Borough	857	4,022
	<u>98,458</u>	<u>22,903</u>

The whole district, for registration purposes, has been divided into four sub-districts. These are as follows:—

- 1.—Crewe, having an area of 31,145 acres, and an estimated population of 11,243. It includes Warmingham, Haslington, Barthomley, Crewe (including Crewe Green), Willaston, Weston, Rope, Basford, Stapeley, Walgherton, Wybunbury, Hough, Chorlton, Lea, Blakenhall, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Hunsterson, Doddington, Hatherton, Batherton, and parts of Church Coppenhall, Shavington-cum-Gresty, and Wistaston.
- 2.—Nantwich, having an area of 21,300 acres, and an estimated population of 3,523. It includes Coole Pilate, Austerson, Baddington, Edleston, Burland, Faddiley, Brindley, Acton, Henhull, Hurleston, Poole, Stoke, Cholmondeston, Aston-juxta-Mondrum, Worleston, Alvaston, Woolstanwood, Leighton, and Minshull Vernon.
- 3.—Bunbury, having an area of 15,845 acres, and an estimated population of 3,105. It includes Church Minshull, Wettenhall, Bunbury, Alpraham, Calveley, Wardle, Haughton, Spurstow, Ridley, and Peckforton.
- 4.—Wrenbury, having an area of 30,168 acres, and an estimated population of 5,597. It includes Chorley, Wrenbury-cum-Frith, Woodcott, Broomhall, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Sound, Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Baddiley, Newhall, Cholmondeley, Egerton, Bickerton, and Bulkeley.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS (General).—In 1897 the number of births registered in the district was 653, and the number of deaths registered in the district (including 8 which took place in the Workhouse in the Urban District of Nantwich, and excluding 22 which occurred in the Workhouse Men's Hospital, among persons not belonging to the Rural District) was 365.

The birth-rates for the four sub-districts were respectively 27·1, 26·8, 29·9, 26·9. The death-rates of these four sub-districts were respectively, 15·2, 19·2, 14·0, 14·4. In calculating the death-rate for the Nantwich sub-district the correction for the deaths of non-residents of the Rural District has been made.

The birth-rate for the whole district is 0·3 below the mean birth-rate for the five years 1892-96. The death-rate for the whole district is 0·8 above the mean death-rate for the five years 1892-96.

The number of births registered in the first quarter was 179, in the second 177, in the third 164, and in the fourth 133. The number of deaths registered in the first quarter was 112, in the second 114, in the third 74, and in the fourth 79. The numbers are uncorrected for non-residents.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Ninety of the deaths recorded were of infants under one year of age. The causes of death were as follows :—Whooping Cough, 5 ; Diarrhœa, 7 ; Measles, 2 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Convulsions, 14 ; Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 16 ; Marasmus, 11 ; Congenital Heart Disease, 1 ; Thrush, 1 ; Tubercular Peritonitis, 1 ; Imperforate Anus, 1 ; "Natural Causes," 1 ; Phthisis, 1 ; Inanition, 4 ; Spina Bifida, 3 ; Heart Disease, 1 ; Debility, 6 ; Premature Birth, 7 ; Tabes Mesenterica, 2 ; Hydrocephalus, 1 ; "Disease, nature unascertained," 1 ; Meningitis, 1 ; Atrophy, 1. The total number of deaths under one year of age was 90, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 137 per 1,000 births registered. In other words, of 1,000 infants born 137 die before reaching the age of twelve months. This rate is not particularly high. Of the deaths under one year of age 31 occurred during the first, 23 during the second, 18 during the third, and 18 during the fourth quarter of the year.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE.—The number of deaths ascribed to the principal zymotic diseases was 35, which gives a zymotic death-rate of 1·3 per 1,000 living at all ages. One other death was ascribed to zymotic disease, that of a tramp dying at the Workhouse Men's Hospital from typhoid fever. As he was a non-resident of the district his death is not counted in calculating the zymotic death-rate.

The deaths occurring as the result of the various diseases were as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 4 ; Diphtheria, 3 ; Erysipelas, 2 ; Measles, 3 ; Whooping Cough, 11 ; Diarrhœa, 12.

- (a) **SCARLET FEVER.**—In January there was a death from this disease at Warmingham. In May there was one at Willaston. In June there was a second death from the same disease at Willaston, and in December there was one at Haslington. The deaths all occurred among children, the ages at death being respectively 2 years, 3 years, 6 years, and 2 years.
- (b) **DIPHTHERIA.**—This disease was responsible for three deaths during the year, one at Bridgemere in January, one at Wybunbury in November, and one at Faddiley in December. The deaths all occurred among children, the ages at death being respectively 6 years, 5 years, and 16 months. These were all sporadic cases, and there was no epidemic prevalence of the disease.
- (c) **TYPHOID FEVER.**—No deaths from this disease were registered as occurring among residents of the district. The death which occurred at the Workhouse Men's Hospital was that of a tramp, who had certainly not contracted the disease in the district.
- (d) **PUERPERAL FEVER.**—No deaths were ascribed to this cause.
- (e) **ERYSIPELAS.**—Two deaths were ascribed to this cause, one at Willaston in September, that of an infant of 20 days, and one at Church Coppenhall in November, that of a woman of 69 years of age.
- (f) **MEASLES.**—Three deaths were ascribed to this disease. They all occurred among young children, and all had respiratory complications as the immediate cause of death.
- (g) **WHOOPING COUGH.**—This disease caused eleven deaths during the year. The deaths all occurred among children, of whom the eldest was 7 years, and the youngest two months old.

- (h) **DIARRHŒA.**—Twelve deaths occurred as the result of this disease. Of these seven occurred in the summer, two in the autumn, one in the spring, and two in the winter months.
- (i) **INFLUENZA.**—Four deaths were ascribed to this disease, viz.: one at Haslington, one at Willaston, one at Bunbury, and one at Minshull Vernon. The ages at death were respectively 61 years, 40 years, 18 months, and 63 years.

LUNG DISEASES.—The gross number of deaths registered as occurring as the result of phthisis (pulmonary consumption) was 19. Of these three occurred at the Workhouse Infirmary among non-residents of the rural district. The number of deaths of rural residents was therefore 16. This is equal to a death-rate of 0·67 per 1,000 living. Bronchitis and pneumonia were the registered cause of 76 deaths belonging to the district. This is equal to a death-rate of 3·2. The death-rate from phthisis was lower by 0·31 than in 1896, and the death-rate from bronchitis and pneumonia was higher by 0·4.

HEART DISEASE.—The deaths from the various forms of heart disease numbered for the rural district 39. The death-rate from heart disease is 1·6 per 1,000 living.

DEATHS FROM INJURIES.—Thirteen deaths were ascribed to injuries. Of these, eleven were on inquiry found to be the result of accident, while in two cases the question of accident, suicide, or homicide, was left open. The registered causes of death were as follows:—

Killed by express train on L. and N.-W. Railway	1 case.
Run over by threshing machine.....	1 „
Accidentally drowned	3 cases.
Found drowned.....	2 „
“ Accidental death ”	2 „
Fall.....	1 case.
Kicked by a colt	1 „
Accidentally burnt to death	2 cases.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.—Inquests were held in 24 cases, viz., in 13 cases of injury and 11 cases of disease. In the cases of injury the findings of the jury were as given in the preceding paragraph, while in the other 11 cases the verdicts were expressed variously as “death from natural causes,” or “disease, nature unascertained.” In none of the 11 cases was the actual cause of death discovered, no *post-mortem* examinations appearing to have been made.

SICKNESS.—In all, 143 cases of dangerous infectious disease have come to the knowledge of the District Council. The cases of the various diseases have been as follows:—

Scarlet fever, 117; typhoid fever, 4; diphtheria, 11; puerperal fever, 1; erysipelas, 10.

- (a) **SCARLET FEVER.**—Early in January a death from malignant scarlet fever was reported from Warmingham. Several other children in the same house became infected, but recovered. On March 17th two cases were reported from Brindley. I visited the cases, which were at two separate farmhouses in the township. No other source of infection except the schools could be found. These were visited, when it was discovered that several children had been away from school with suspicious illnesses, and that one at least had “peeled.” On inspecting the school-children several cases of sore throat were discovered, but it was impossible to say at that time whether they were cases of scarlet fever or not. The closure of the school was at once requested, and was successful in checking the outbreak, since no further houses were invaded, though two new cases occurred at one of the originally infected houses.

During the second quarter cases were reported from Bunbury, Aston, Leighton, Spurstow, Haslington, Wrenbury, Church Coppenhall, Cholmondeley, Brindley, Willaston, and Worleston. In all the townships excepting Willaston and Worleston the outbreaks were confined to a single house. At Willaston, however, five houses were infected, and two deaths occurred, and at Worleston four houses were invaded.

During the third quarter cases were reported from Audlem, Haslington, Willaston, Alpraham, Coole Pilate, Haughton, Worleston, Alvaston, Edleston, Spurstow, and Warmingham. The Audlem cases appeared to me to derive their infection from a family which had had scarlet fever in the early part of the year, and had lately moved to Audlem without having their clothing, &c., adequately disinfected. The Warmingham cases, three in number, were part of a small epidemic which existed there and in the adjoining townships of the Congleton Rural District.

During the fourth quarter cases were reported from Haslington, Willaston, Crewe, Blakenhall Hurleston, Wettenhall, Dodcott, Calveley, Aston, Worleston, Hunsterson, and Warmingham. At Willaston seven houses were infected. At Haslington and Crewe 25 cases occurred, among which, were two pupil teachers at the schools. The infection of the teachers, and other circumstances, led to the belief that infection had been communicated at school.

- (b) **DIPHTHERIA.**—A fatal case of this disease occurred at Bridgemere early in January, the patient being a boy aged 5 years; shortly afterwards another patient in the same house took the disease, but fortunately recovered. The cottage where the cases occurred was made the subject of statutory notice as regarded its drainage and other sanitary conditions, and has been greatly improved. A case occurred at Faddiley in April, at a farm house, and a doubtful case at Willaston in June. Both cases made good recoveries. Two cases occurred during the third quarter, one at Shavington, in an elderly woman, and one in a child at Haughton. The farm house where the latter case occurred required considerable improvement as to drainage, which I am glad to say has been put right.

During the fourth quarter eight cases occurred; of these, three (of which one proved fatal) existed at one cottage at Faddiley, one (which also proved fatal) at Wybunbury, one at a small farm house at Haslington, one at a large house at Bunbury, one at a farm house at Calveley, and one at a farm house at Chorlton.

- (c) **TYPHOID FEVER.**—A fatal case, occurring in a tramp, was notified from the Men's Hospital, Nantwich Workhouse; the man had tramped from Bristol, and was well advanced in the disease before he arrived in this district. Three cases were notified during the fourth quarter of the year. Of these, one, which was probably infected in Italy, was notified from Church Minshull, one from a cottage at Haslington, and one from a small farm house at Warmingham. All these cases recovered.
- (d) **PUERPERAL FEVER.**—A mild case of this disease was reported from Shavington on December 6th. The case made a good recovery.
- (e) **ERYSIPELAS.**—Ten cases of this disease (of which two were fatal) came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.
- (f) **MEASLES.**—This disease was epidemic in and around Minshull Vernon in the later weeks of March and the early weeks of April.
- (g) **WHOOPIING COUGH** appeared in various places during the year, but I was not informed of any severe epidemic prevalence. The disease was responsible for eleven deaths.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—Since April 4th the district has had the advantage of compulsory notification of infectious disease. The method of procedure on receipt of a notification has been as follows:—On the same evening an intimation of the outbreak is sent to the Master or Mistress of the school or schools attended by the family, and the exclusion of the family from school is requested. At the same time papers of instruction are sent to the head of the family, and as soon as practicable the case is visited by the Inspector and myself, when sanitary conditions are noted and instructions and disinfectants given.

School-closure has been necessary on several occasions during the year. The Faddiley School was closed for a fortnight on March 17th, on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever; the Bradfield Green School was closed for a fortnight on April 17th, on account of measles; the Wrenbury School was closed for six weeks on May 10th, on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever in the master's family; the Warmingham School was

closed for four weeks on September 30th, on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever; and the Haslington and Crewe Green Schools were closed on December 23rd for a month, on account of a sharp outbreak of scarlet fever.

FOOD INSPECTION.—A quarter of beef was seized at Shavington on February 14th. It was part of a carcase of which the other parts were seized in the Borough of Crewe. A Magistrate's order for its destruction was obtained, and it was as soon as possible destroyed. A conviction for using an unregistered slaughter-house was subsequently obtained against the owner of the carcase.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS CASES.—No provision for the isolation of the infectious sick away from their own homes has so far been made by the District Council. The cases have to be nursed at home, and in the ordinary cottage efficient isolation is almost an impossibility. As a consequence, in very few cases (of scarlet fever at all events) is the disease confined to a single member of a family, and in too many cases the disease spreads beyond the limits of the family. When the large area to be superintended by your officers is taken into consideration, it will readily be seen that it is impossible to keep up that constant supervision of cases that is so desirable if spread of infection must be prevented. Your Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that a small Isolation Hospital would be of the highest value to the district, and if only the four deaths registered during the year as due to scarlet fever could have been prevented the expenditure on Hospital provision would have been well repaid.

DISINFECTION.—The present lack of apparatus for the disinfection of clothing and bedding has been several times commented upon. Your Medical Officer of Health considers that the Council would be well advised to make some provision for the disinfection of unwashable articles by means of steam.

DRAINAGE.—Nothing further has so far been done with respect to any general system of sewerage in the larger villages of the district. A scheme for the drainage of a small portion of the village of Haslington has, however, been considered, and has been decided upon. It will doubtless shortly be carried out. Some method of more effectually dealing with the sewage of the rest of Haslington, and of Audlem, Bunbury, Willaston, and Shavington requires the attention of the District Council.

RIVERS POLLUTION.—The pollution of the River Weaver by the sewage of Nantwich and Crewe has several times during the year been complained of. The tributary, North Brook, which appears to receive the greater part of the Crewe sewage effluent, has more especially been the subject of complaint. Its condition is generally bad, shows very distinct evidence of the presence of crude sewage, and is said to be especially objectionable on Saturday nights and Sundays, when, presumably, pumping operations at the sewage farm are more or less suspended. The deleterious effects of this polluted water on cattle which are compelled to drink it cannot be small, and your Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that the District Council might well call for an improvement.

NUISANCES FROM THE DEPOSIT OF ASHES.—A number of complaints have been made of nuisance from the deposit in the Rural District of ash-pit refuse from the Borough of Crewe.

WATER SUPPLY.—During the year 116 fresh houses have been supplied from the Council's mains, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles of new mains have been laid, making a total of 3,348 houses supplied and 122 miles of mains laid since the work of general water supply was first undertaken. Further works of water supply are in contemplation at Spurstow, Church Minshull, Cholmondeley, Haslington, Alpraham, Calveley, Egerton, Burland, and Baddiley. The present water supply of Audlem has received a large amount of attention during the year. A committee of the District Council held an inquiry at Audlem on August 5th. A report, drawn up by the Surveyor and the Medical Officer of Health, was presented to this Committee. This report stated that 177 houses were supplied with water by pumps and wells, that 95 houses were without any supply of their own, and that 52 houses were supplied by dip-wells at varying distances from the houses. It also stated that your officers were of opinion that a large number of the existing wells, from their surroundings and position, and from the appearance of their waters, were open to suspicion. It was pointed out that well waters in a place where houses were crowded together, where drainage was not good, and where also a large churchyard existed at a higher elevation, could not help being liable to pollution. This report was embodied by the Committee in their report, which recommended that analyses of representative waters be obtained, that,

should the analyses be favourable, notice be served on the owners to supply their properties with water within twelve months, and, that if the owners failed to comply with these notices or if the report of the Analyst was unfavourable, the Council take such further steps as should seem advisable. The Council did not adopt this Report of their Committee ; but decided to at once serve notice on the owners without first having the quality of the existing waters ascertained.

There certainly appeared to be a strong feeling among a section of the inhabitants of Audlem against any works of public water supply ; but your Medical Officer of Health cannot but regret that the Council did not take steps to prove the quality of existing waters before embarking on this course which, if successful, will certainly put off for a long time the provision of a really unexceptionable supply from water mains, which may not be successful, since it is clear that in many cases water could not be obtained at a cost within the limits allowed by the Water Act, and which, at the best, will only succeed in supplying the township with waters of medium or poor quality, or, at any rate, with waters more or less liable to pollution and open to suspicion.

The report of Mr. Davenport, Surveyor and Inspector, is appended hereto. From it will be gathered how numerous are the duties which devolve upon him. The usual statistical tables are also appended.

In conclusion, I have to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the District Council, for their courtesy and kindness to me during the year, to the Medical Men of the district for their co-operation, and to the School Masters and School Mistresses of the various schools for the great help they have uniformly afforded me in searching for the origin of infectious outbreaks, and in trying to prevent epidemic prevalence of infectious disease.

R. T. TURNER, M.D.,

Nantwich,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 5th, 1898.

[A] Table of DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Nantwich Rural District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				Total				
	(a) <i>(Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)</i>	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year.	(d) 1 and under 5.	(e) 5 and under 15.	(f) 15 and under 25.	(g) 25 and under 65.	(h) 65 and upwards.	(i) <div><div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div><div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div><div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div><div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div><div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div></div>	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.		Injuries.	All other Diseases.		
Registration Sub-District of Crewe		171	55	17	8	4	41	46	<div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	5	0	6	12	15	17	0	1	39	71	
Nantwich		82	12	7	2	5	18	38	<div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	8	15	17	2	51	100	
Bunbury		45	8	4	1	1	18	13	<div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	15	1	12	19	63	
Wrenbury		81	15	6	4	...	23	33	<div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	5	...	1	20	33	12
TOTALS...	379	90	34	15	10	100	130		<div><div>Under 5</div><div>5 upwards</div></div>	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	10	9	...	2	22	35	42	4	66	123	250

Area in Acres, 98,458.
Population (Last Census) 22,903.
(Estimated to middle of 1897) 23,483.
General 159 {
Infant (under one year of age) 137 {
per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897. {
per 1,000 Births Registered

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	8	...	1	...	...	1	6	{ Under 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	22	...	...	...	2	8	12	{ Under 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
																															22

[B] Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Nantwich Rural District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. Registration Sub-District of (a)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										FEVERS.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1897. (c)	Registered Births. (d)		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	6 Typhoid.	7 Continued.	8 Relapsing.	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098

State whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes; since April 4th, 1897. There is no Isolation Hospital for the District.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1897.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.—The inspections of premises in the townships which comprise the Nantwich Rural District have resulted in the service of statutory notices with respect to 185 premises within the year 1897. New drainage has been laid at 66 houses, new privies and covered ash-pits have been erected or old ones altered at 86 houses. Other permanent sanitary improvements have been made at 16 houses, and various nuisances not included under other heads have been abated at 35 houses. In 87 cases the nuisances have either not already been abated or are in course of being abated, or are waiting reinspection. A certain number of nuisances have been abated without formal notices. No houses have been closed as dwellings during the year.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—In connection with the Scavenging Contract in Haslington, 471 inspections have been made, with that of Willaston 1,528, with that of Shavington 464, and with that of Audlem 370, making a total of 2,833 inspections made during the year with respect to these contracts. The work on the whole has been carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner.

WATER SUPPLY.—One hundred and sixteen houses have been newly supplied with water from public mains during 1897. Rather more than three miles of water mains have been laid. The total number of houses that have now been supplied by the Council is 3,348, and the total length of mains, 122 miles. There have been 51 inspections under the Public Health Water Act with respect to new houses, &c. Sixteen waters have been analysed, two of which proved good, six bad, seven were second-class waters, and one of doubtful purity. New pumps have been put down, and private water supplies improved in various instances, as in Wrenbury and in other townships.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—One hundred and forty-three cases of infectious disease have been visited during the year, papers and instructions given, and disinfectants distributed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Dairies and cowsheds have been inspected as far as possible. It is a matter of regret that more could not have been done under this head. A certain laxity has been reported with respect to purveyors of milk, and instructions have been given by the Council that notices under the "Dairies, &c., Order" be again posted throughout the district. The existence of the "Order" seems to have been forgotten by those who should have observed it and the byelaws made under it.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—One new slaughter-house has been licensed during the year. Slaughter-houses have been inspected, and two convictions before the magistrates have been obtained for breaches of the law and regulations.

CANAL BOATS.—A copy of the annual report to the Local Government Board accompanies this report.

NEW BUILDINGS.—Fifty-one plans for new buildings have been sanctioned by the Council during 1897, making a total of 1,839 plans for new buildings passed in the district since these urban powers were first granted. New buildings have to be inspected during erection and after completion.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—Convictions have been obtained in the two instances where legal proceedings were taken before the Magistrates.

GENERAL.—Reports from Parish Councils have necessitated a considerable amount of work. Inspections for the Boarding-out Committee have been made, and reports furnished. Work in connection with the great waterworks in the district grows heavier year by year, and the future seems to foreshadow the requirements of even more extensive supervision. Public lighting in the different townships is growing and likely to grow, and necessarily requires attention. Sewage works cannot be neglected, and the future would seem likely to bring increased responsibility under this head. The business of the various departments during the past year has necessitated the writing of one thousand three hundred and fifty letters. The monthly, annual, and other reports made, the certifying of accounts, and the ordinary routine of office and outdoor work, measuring up work, keeping the various books, &c., all go to make up a total of occupation which may be termed very considerable ! !

JOHN ALDERSEY DAVENPORT,

Surveyor and Inspector.

February, 1898.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF INSPECTIONS UNDER THE CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Forty-two boats have been inspected in all their details during the year 1897, and their state and condition entered on the pages of the Journal. Twenty boats entirely confirmed to the Acts and Regulations, and on twenty-two boats one or more infringements were found.

In only one instance (the Oscar) was there an entire absence of the certificate, and again in one case only (the John) did the certificate not identify the owner with the boat. This is a better record than that of last year on these two particular points. No infringement of the marking regulations were noted. In four instances boats were overcrowded, and in one instance, there was no partition separating the sexes, according to Regulation 8, and "the hand" occupied the cabin with the captain and his wife. I found no cases of females over 12 years of age improperly occupying cabins. Six cases of want of cleanliness in the cabins of boats are recorded, and these were chiefly in connection with boats that were dilapidated, and in much need of repairs. The repainting of the cabins of eight boats was required. I have no fault to find in connection with the ventilation of the cabins. Dilapidations have been recorded with respect to fifteen boats, and some of these were of a very urgent character. The regulations with respect to the removal of bilge water, and as to pumps, were not found to be infringed. Except in four instances, proper water vessels were found upon each boat. The bulkheads were all as required by the regulations, and I am glad to report that no cases of Infectious Disease have been known upon the boats during the year.

With respect to myself, I have found no hindrance in the carrying out of my duties, generally indeed, very cheerful co-operation. It will be noted that the proportion of boats not carrying sufficient water vessels is very much less than in the last year's report.

Forty infringements altogether of the Acts have been noted during 1897, and in all cases the owners of the boats have promised to remedy what has been complained of. I have to acknowledge the courtesy of the General Manager of the Shropshire Union Canal Company, who has sent me reports of what has been done in connection with each boat where complaints have been made. The inspections of boats subsequently have confirmed these reports. A case of gross overcrowding complained of to this Council by the Drayton Rural District Council was very promptly dealt with by Mr. Hales, after I had submitted the facts to him, and the result elicited the thanks of the Drayton Council to this Council. No legal proceedings have been taken during the year.

The number of the women on the boats inspected was found to be twenty-six, and the number of the children thirty-three, fourteen of whom were between the ages of five and twelve years; and nineteen were children of five years old and under. On eighteen boats there were no women and children, and twenty-four boats had women and children on board. In twenty-six cases the boats were the homes of the crews, and in sixteen cases the captains had homes apart from their boats.

The economic question operates powerfully in keeping the women and children on the boats. It would seem more desirable, however, if children could be kept off the boats, and so be enabled to obtain a continuous education. This would probably require that the mothers should stay at home also, but surely this would not be a matter for very great regret.

JOHN ALDERSEY DAVENPORT,

January, 1898.

Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts.

